

APPENDIX

¹12. A process for racemising an enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of a primary amide of an amino acid which process comprises contacting said enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of a primary amide of an amino acid with a strong base in an organic solvent, wherein said strong base is chemically reactive with water.

²13. The process of claim ¹12 wherein the strong base is a metal alkoxide, a metal alkyl, a metal amide, or a metal hydride.

³14. The process of claim ²13 wherein the strong base is a metal alkoxide.

⁴15. The process of claim ¹12 wherein the strong base is present in an amount of 0.001-1000 mole% relative to the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base.

⁵16. The process of claim ⁴15 wherein the strong base is present in an amount of 0.1-100 mole% relative to the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base.

⁶17. The process of claim ¹12 wherein the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base is an N-benzylidene primary amino acid amide.

⁷18. The process of claim ¹12 wherein the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base is derived from an aliphatic primary amino acid amide.

⁸19. The process of claim ⁷18 wherein the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base is derived from tertiary-leucine amide.

⁹20. The process of claim ¹12 wherein the organic solvent is an aromatic hydrocarbon, a cyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon or an ether.

¹⁰21. The process of claim ⁹20 wherein the organic solvent is an aromatic hydrocarbon.

~~22.~~ The process of claim ~~12~~ wherein said enantiomer-enriched Schiff base has been prepared from the primary amide of the amino acid in said organic solvent.